

BEAVER DAM CHALLENGE:



THE ACTIVITY:

Building a dam that holds back water looks easy—until you try it yourself!

Follow the steps below to build your own model of a dam:

- Make sure to have permission before doing this activity. This is a great challenge to do outside!

1. Gather your materials:

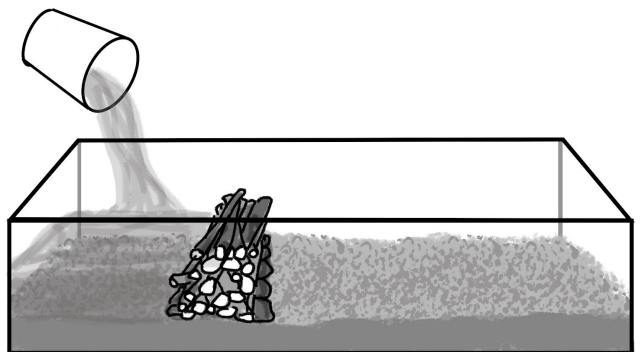
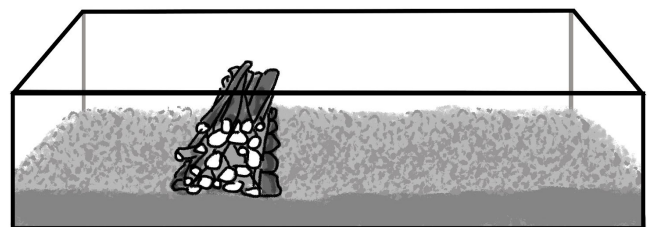
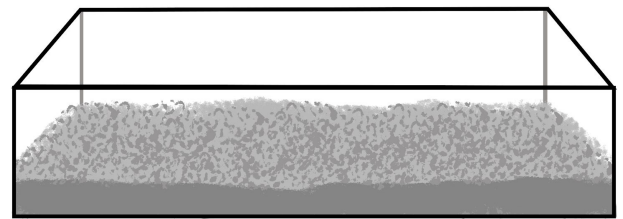
- a. A long container like a seedling tray or tupperware (add a shallow layer of sand or dirt if you can)
- b. Building materials such as stones, sticks, clay, or popsicles sticks (or anything you can find at home)
- c. Water

2. Construct your dam on one side of the tray.

3. Predict what you think will happen when water reaches the dam.

4. Carefully pour water on one side of the dam. What happens? How long does it take for water to flow through the dam to the other side?

5. Change or add to your dam to try and improve your design. Keep testing to try new combinations or materials. (you may wish to dump the water out between tests.)



Things to think about while you build:

- Is your structure stable?
- How many holes are in the dam?
- How high to build the dam?

Things to think about after you build:

- What materials worked the best?
- Is there anything you could add to your dam to make it better?
- What is the purpose of a beaver dam and how does it affect the ecosystem?